



Chosen to Lead Children's Programs

Meet Denise Revels Robinson

"I was seeking someone with a proven and passionate commitment of public child welfare," said DSHS Secretary Susan N. Dreyfus when appointing Denise, "and Denise Revels Robinson is that person: she understands the function of child welfare within the spectrum of social services and community. She is recognized and respected at both the state and national level as a leader in child welfare. Denise believes in ensuring that Washington state's child welfare system has the resources and partnerships needed for quality practices and better outcomes for every child, every time."

DSHS Assistant Secretary Denise Revels Robinson assumed leadership of Children's Administration October 19, 2009.

Child welfare is her life's work. Coming from Wisconsin, Denise brings to Washington 40 years experience working in child welfare, 30 years of which she served in leadership at state, regional, county and local levels for public and private organizations and agencies. As a proven, caring professional, Denise understands the human condition and is committed to making sure that every child is served in the best way possible, every time.

Denise most recently served as executive policy advisor at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families; and previously she served 12 years as director of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, which was a state-run county child welfare system. She began her career as a child welfare case manager in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Denise served for five years as the director of the Family and Children's Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, where she led and directed state public child welfare programs across a county-administered human services system. While in Minnesota, she also served on the adjunct faculty at the University of Minnesota, School of Social Work.

During her tenure with Milwaukee County, starting in 1997, Denise in just six years led the way to safely reduce the number of children in out-of-home care from 6,800 to 2,600 by helping reunite children with their families in 70 percent of cases, and 30 percent were adopted within 24 months of entering foster care.

Denise's national work includes serving on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators in Washington, D.C., since 2004. She has served on the Board of Directors, Black Administrators in Child Welfare, since 2002. She also has served several years as a federal consultant reviewer for Child and Family Services Review.

She earned a master of social work degree in 1983 from Howard University School of Social Work in Washington, D.C.; and a bachelor of arts in sociology from West Virginia State University, Institute, West Virginia, in 1969.
